

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 4, 10, and 11 and canceled Claim 9. Claims 1-8 and 10-18 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim.

In the recent Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant has addressed the indefiniteness in the present amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims meet the specific requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In the recent Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reeder in view of Rush either alone or further in view of Wang, Chun-Seng, Rogers, or Pugh. The indication by the Examiner that Claims 9-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims is noted with appreciation.

Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 9. It is submitted that the incorporation of Claim 9 alone is sufficient to render Claim 1 allowable. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least this reason, amended independent Claim 1 and its corresponding dependent Claims are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

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For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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RCL:ckf